

Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium, RAP Chair

NOVEMBER 2003 RAP MEETING

Host: California State University, Monterey Bay
Friday, November 21, 2003 9am to 12pm

In Attendance:

Members:

Jeff Paduan, Naval Postgraduate School, Vice Chair
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS, RAP Coordinator

Greg Cailliet, MLML
Steve Moore, CSUMB
Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant
Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP

Guests:

Erica Burton, MBNMS
Irina Kogan, MBARI, MBNMS
Josh Pederson, MBNMS
Sarah Smith, MBNMS
Dale Roberts, CINMS
Marsha Moroh, CSUMB
Fred Watson, CCoWS

PRESENTATIONS

Institutional Update: CSUMB (Steve Moore and Marsha Moroh)

Marsha Moroh, has been at CSUMB since 1995 when the University first opened its doors. CSUMB is a “learning-centered model”. Growth projection and funding are interdependent. Flat funding currently due to a California budget crisis \$52 million budget. WASC recently accredited CSUMB. There are 13 majors under four academic programs, which have been rearranged many times. SMART is further divided into divisions/schools. Presently there is only an undergraduate program, but an M.S. degree is under development. Currently there are more science than humanity majors. Marsha mentioned that the new Science Academic Center is the first new building on campus and houses most of the science faculty. For more information visit <http://csumb.edu>.

Marsha asked the RAP for suggestions on naming the major for the M.S. degree.

Presentation on (CCoWS) Central Coast Watershed Studies (Fred Watson)

Fred Watson gave a presentation on the results and future needs of the Central Coast Watershed Studies program. Research is funded through the Clean Water Act and TMDL funding. Finishing projects on sediments, nutrients, and pesticides. Sediment research includes agriculture, forest, and grazing areas. Nutrient research has a spatial distribution, increasing nutrient and agricultural connection. Beach closures occur due to high levels of fecal coliform; these levels are too high according to the Regional Water Quality Board standards. Ditches encourage growth of bacteria. Next step is genetic analysis. Committees convened with MBNMS interests including: MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program, MBNMS SAC, PG&E, and NMFS. There are gaps between watershed and marine research (i.e. extent of impacts are unknown and levels of pollutants are unknown). Conclusion is that pollution load and impacts must be measured. For more information contact Fred Watson at <http://science.csumb.edu/~ccows>.

Suggestions from the RAP included developing a datalogger to have students look at coliform noting that sensing is difficult. Currently, monitoring efforts are voluntary; monitoring is a key aspect. A discussion of projects using watersheds to treat runoff is needed.

Presentation on SIMoN website (Josh Pederson)

Josh Pederson gave an overview of the new website and described some of the great interactive maps and how SIMoN has gotten cooperation from several network partners. Since October 29th, there have been over 200,000 hits at the site. Josh asked and encouraged submission of projects from RAP members. Visit the site at <http://www.mbnms-simon.org>.

Comments from some RAP members were that the site is easy to use and it allows people to understand what is going on in research around the bay.

Final Report on the ATOC Cable Environmental Impact Surveys (Irina Kogan)

Irina Kogan explained that the environmental impact study on the ATOC/Pioneer Seamount Cable was done because of interest, momentum, and \$13 billion was spent on installing the cable. Three groups have been involved and interested in the study, these include: NOAA-OAR, MBNMS/MMSP and MBARI. Environmental impacts include damage to rock and cable closer to shore; organisms are aggregating on cable, although, this does not seem to affect infauna; the unarmored cable at seamount is not damaged and there is no rock damage, this is related to the energetics of the area; cable buried in areas of shifting substrate; and increased species density near the cable. For more information please contact Irina Kogan at irina.kogan@noaa.gov.

DISCUSSIONS

RAP chair/Research Rep on SAC (Andrew DeVogelaere)

Andrew proposed that Chris Harrold act as Chair until management plan is through. E-mail vote by the RAP (ask for nominees).

A second e-mail: Chris and Jeff Paduan to be nominated, are there any others?

DF&G Representative on SAC (Andrew DeVogelaere)

Updated the RAP on the progress of getting a new representative to replace Deborah Johnston.

Ricketts Lecture and Science/Research Award Nominations (Andrew DeVogelaere)

Need a decision by December.

At this time there are three nominations for Ricketts: Mike Foster, John Pearce, Nicole Crane.

For the Research/Science Award there are four nominations: Bob Lea, Pete Raimondi, Mark Carr, and Rikk Kvitek. The RAP decided to nominate Bob Lea for both awards.

2004 RAP Meeting Dates and Locations (Andrew DeVogelaere)

Pass along a sign up sheet for hosts. A proposal to do an afternoon meeting , starting at 1:00 pm with the annual barbeque.

INFORMATION ITEMS

GFNMS Research Workshop announced.

Handouts for upcoming SAC meeting (December 5).

Presentations on desalination plants are ready for the SAC meeting; RAP would like Brad Damitz to give a talk at the January RAP meeting.

Formally closed meeting.